

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No  
PCT/IT 03/00374

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
IPC 7 A61M25/10

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
IPC 7 A61M

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 908 407 A (EVANS SCOTT M ET AL) 1 June 1999 (1999-06-01)	1-6, 13-15, 17,18, 20,21
Y	column 4, line 48 - column 5, line 37 column 6, lines 32-41 figures 4-7	7-12,19
X	US 6 558 401 B1 (AZIZI GHOLAM-REZA ZADNO) 6 May 2003 (2003-05-06)	1-3,9, 13,15, 16,21
Y	column 6, line 13 - column 7, line 57; figures 4,5	7,8
Y	US 6 017 323 A (CHEE URIEL HIRAM) 25 January 2000 (2000-01-25) column 6, lines 15-26; figures 2C,2D column 7, lines 1-57; figures 2H,2I	9-12
		-/-

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

## ° Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the International filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed Invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed Invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the International search

19 March 2004

Date of mailing of the International search report

01/04/2004

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## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5 454 788 A (GHAERZADEH KAMBIZ ET AL) 3 October 1995 (1995-10-03) column 26, line 49 - column 27, line 10 -----	19

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PCT/IT 03/00374

## Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1.  Claims Nos.: 22, 23  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:  
**Rule 39.1(iv) PCT – Method for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery**
2.  Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3.  Claims Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

## Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this International application, as follows:

1.  As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2.  As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3.  As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4.  No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

### Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

List on patent family members

International Application No  
PCT/IT 03/00374

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5908407	A	01-06-1999	WO	9904849 A1	04-02-1999
US 6558401	B1	06-05-2003	US AU WO	6231588 B1 6312199 A 0007657 A1	15-05-2001 28-02-2000 17-02-2000
US 6017323	A	25-01-2000	AU WO	6891598 A 9844981 A1	30-10-1998 15-10-1998
US 5454788	A	03-10-1995	US US US CA DE DE EP JP JP WO	5364354 A 5693015 A 5320604 A 2104121 A1 69224636 D1 69224636 T2 0581866 A1 2939893 B2 6506853 T 9219311 A1	15-11-1994 02-12-1997 14-06-1994 12-11-1992 09-04-1998 05-11-1998 09-02-1994 25-08-1999 04-08-1994 12-11-1992